

South Main Street Water Main – Public Engagement Meeting #3 Discussion Summary

South Main Street Water Main Project Public Engagement Meeting #3

Date: Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Time: 7:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Public present: 4

Council Members Present: 0

City staff present: 1; Heather Seyfarth

Wade Trim staff present: 3; Chris Wall, Vaughn Martin, Carmelle Tremblay

Re: South Main Street Water Main Project

Note: The following is not a direct transcription of the meeting discussion. This summary has been prepared from notes taken during the meeting; comments are paraphrased.

Audience Questions

The following questions were asked by the audience. Staff responses are marked with an ‘**A**’ and denoted in italics. Where clarifications or responses have been added after the meeting, these are denoted as ‘**Post-Meeting Note**’.

1. Many businesses want to delay this project. Is that still possible?
 - A. This input has been shared with City of Ann Arbor staff. While the project team understands that there is no ideal time to disrupt the Main Street area, the water main needs to be replaced as soon as possible. The longer the project gets delayed, the more concern for performance issues, inadequate fire flow and heightened risk of main breaks. Understanding business and resident concerns, this project has been delayed in the past, and at this time, the project is still planned to begin construction in 2023.*
2. I would love to see a year-round car-free pedestrian plaza from Huron to William, attractive brick surface, allowing restaurants to seat outside. This would provide much character to Main St and be a commercial focal-point. Any thoughts on this?
 - A. At this time, the main focus of the project is water main and road resurfacing. The DDA and the Main Street Area Association have both been engaged on this project, however at this time there are no funds available to redo the full streetscape.*
3. Are galvanized water services still going to be replaced?
 - A. City of Ann Arbor public works plans to replace any lead/galvanized services prior to the beginning of the Main Street project. The project team will continue to coordinate as necessary to ensure the services are replaced.*

4. My building is serviced by a fire suppression lead through the building next door. We would like our own fire service, but the tap fee for a new fire service is very costly. Could a new fire lead be installed (and cost incurred) by this project?
 - A. *The property owner would be responsible for the tap fee and the cost of installing a new fire service. However, performing this work of installing a fire service during this project is likely a cost-efficient option, so the project team would be happy to investigate this and help you coordinate that work.*

5. It was mentioned that the first phase of the project is intended to be completed prior to Art Fair. If you anticipate the first phase to be 20 weeks long, that would mean you need to start in February to. Is that possible?
 - A. *An early start to the project is dependent on weather and frost laws for surrounding roads (to get equipment and materials to the construction site). While starting in late winter will be ideal for the schedule of the project, we understand that this may not be possible. The project is proposed in phases for this very reason – if there is delay during one phase, we have flexibility to alter the next phase as necessary. Having the road open, safe and available during Art Fair will always be the intent of the project.*

6. What is the water shut-off period; is it hours or days?
 - A. *The duration of water shut down varies based on the work being performed. Most shutdowns are generally around 4 hours, and at a maximum would not be longer than 8-10 hours. We are planning to incorporate night work and will coordinate times, so that water service disruption to businesses and residents occur at non-peak hours. We will deliver flyers to your door and have an email distribution list to notify you at least 48-hours ahead of time. An inspector and field engineer will also always be available for you to contact during the project with any issues or questions.*

Post Meeting Email

7. Email requesting to coordinate with a business owner was received and a meeting was setup and held on November 3rd.
 - Project team was asked to consider the Charles Woodson fundraiser (occurs every July on Main Street between William and first crosswalk to the north) when planning the project construction schedule.
 - A. *The project team will review the anticipated construction timeline and continue to coordinate with the fundraiser organizers throughout the project planning.*

8. Email requesting an update presentation to the Main Street Association Meeting was received and a date set for November 4th.